

REMARKS

The species election requirement of December 2, 2004, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-77 are currently pending in the above-referenced application, and are subject to the species election requirement.

Claim Amendment

Independent claim 62 has been amended to correct typographical errors therein. The amendments to independent claim 62 do not narrow the scope thereof.

Species Election Requirement

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute claims that are directed to the species of Group 14, which includes claims that include within their scopes dies that comprise planar plates with thicknesses that are configured to maintain their planarity when unsupported by a portable press.

The Office has already acknowledged that claims 62-77 read on this species. It is respectfully submitted that while claims 1-61 may be patentably distinct from claims 62-77, they also read on this species, as dies with substantially rigid, planar plates and substantially planar plates would also have thicknesses that are configured to maintain their planarity when unsupported by a portable press. While claim 62 is certainly generic to the species of Group 14, a number of other claims, including independent claim 48, are also generic to the species of Group 14, as well as to all of the other species of invention that have been identified in the species election requirement.

Serial No. 10/718,852

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable action on the merits of claims 1-77 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brick" being more prominent.

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